

Appl. No. 09/897,572
Atty. Docket No. 7949
Supp. Amdt. dated September 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17, 32, 35, 37-39, 45, 48, 59-65, and 73-81 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 14, 16, 26-29, 36, 40-44, 51-56, 66 and 69 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 37, 62-65, and 73 have been amended to more specifically characterize the claimed invention of the present application.

In addition, new Claims 74-81 have been added. Support for this amendment is found as the preferably options of the originally filed claims.

Claims 18-25, 30, 31, 33, 34, 46, 47, 49, 50, 57, 58, 67, 68, 71, and 72 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§112, second paragraph and 102. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested. Applicants will gladly submit a substitute specification under 37 CFR § 1.125(a) at the request of the Examiner. If, prior to allowance, any outstanding issues exist, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity to resolve such issues via a phone interview.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10-13, 15, 17, 32, 35, 37-39, 45, 48, 59-65, and 73-81.

Respectfully submitted,

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